GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3971
ANSWERED ON:17.08.2001
KASHMIR CHANNEL
AVTAR SINGH BHADANA

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the name of Doordarshan Channels, region-wise those are being telecasted to counter fissiparious, separatist propaganda in various militancy affected States;

(b) whether the administrative apparatus of all these channels is invariably based in their respective States or regions except only in the case of the Kashmir Channel;

(c) whether the administrative production and operational control of the Kashmir Channel is being managed from Delhi instead of Srinagar;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the government are aware of the tremendous difficulties faced due to this remote controlled functioning of Kashmir channel by talented Kashmiri producers and other creative elements associated with and other desirous and deserving to be considered for fair allocation of programmes on this channel;

(f) whether she was scheduled to inaugurate the Balti programme from Srinagar recently and also to announce the shifting of Kashmir Channel to Srinagar on that occasion;

(g) whether that proposal was shelved in the face of stiff resistance against it by the sections withing Kashmir Channel interested in its continuation in Delhi; and

(h) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a)to(e): All Doordarshan Channels and Kendras carry programmes with a view to promote nationalintegration and to dissuade people from false propaganda, wherever required. Administrative set up in respect of all Regional Channels/ Kendra including Kashir Channel are based in the respective State Capitals. However, the Kashir Channel spends much larger amount on commissioning of programmes as compared to other Regional Channels. Since the necessary supporting system to handle commissioning of programme of this magnitude is not available with DDK, Srinagar, the same is being handled from Doordarshan Headquarters. Further, keeping in view the prevailing situation in Kashmir, inputs are required from a Broad based Committee of experts to give appropriate thrust to the programmes for Kashir Channel. The present arrangement is helping in producing the right kind of programmes which are required for Kashir Channel.

(f): No Sir.

(g)&(h): Do not arise.